

the Carolina Farmer

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IRRIGATION

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JANUARY, 1957





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the Carolina Farmer

JANUARY, 1957

Volume 12

Number 1

8

J. C. BROWN, JR., Editor
REBEKAH RIVERS, Assistant Editor
LYNN BRUNSON, Editorial Assistant

THE '57 growing season is just around the calendar, and farmers are beginning to think about crops. There's a new practice to consider, and CF goes to the expert for guidance. You'll find his opinion on page 7 . . . On page 5 you'll read another Opinion that you might like to pass along to the men you send to the General Assembly in February . . . We promised the many readers who wrote us we would give them more on tomatoes; as good as our word, it's on page 14 . . . And don't miss Bill Crisp's analysis on page 16 of an amazing success story you helped write.

THE COVER

C. Garren, a TVA-demonstration dairy farmer in Transylvania County, graces our cover, and well he might! With the help of irrigation and other good practices—among them rotational strip grazing—he manages to keep 13 cows on only 21 acres of open land—18 in pasture, 3 in grain crops. With such a small amount of land, he can't risk droughts.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

TARHEEL ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP ASSOCIATION

P. O. BOX 1699 • RALEIGH, N. C.

WILLIAM T. CRISP, Executive Manager

THE CAROLINA FARMER is published monthly by Tarheel Electric Membership Association, Inc. Second class mail privileges authorized at Raleigh, N. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Additional entry at Richmond, Va. Editorial offices, Suite 914 Commercial Building, Raleigh, N. C. Subscription price 42c per year. Contents copyrighted 1957 by Tarheel Electric Membership Association, Inc.

Who ain't got enough teachers?

LAST MONTH, Governor Hodges proposed a State Citizens Committee for Better Schools. This committee, he said, would study North Carolina's school needs with "particular reference to the financing and the responsibility of all of us at local levels as well as state levels."

If such a committee is appointed, its members will have a shocking story to report to the people: A story that should yank us North Carolinians from our Rip Van Winkle sleep and throw us zealously into a long over-due educational revolution.

The committee's findings will destroy the charming myth that our state ranks far and above the other southern states in educational status.

Overshadowing any of the other problems the committee may find will be the teacher shortage.

What solution will the committee offer for this overwhelming problem? Probably the same solution educators have shouted to deaf ears for so long: We must meet the law of supply and demand in the school labor market, even as it is met in industry—even as the farmer must observe the same law in planning his crops.

And what is the present picture of supply and demand in the teacher market? Let's take a look at the 1955-56 school year. During that year, we needed 2,602 new white teachers. Our colleges graduated 1,907 qualified teachers, but only 1,047 chose to stay in this state and teach. Our schools were left with a minus on the ledger: 1,557 teachers short.

Had every teacher who graduated stayed in this state, the demand would still have been 700 greater than the supply.

So we see that not only are we unable to keep the teachers we do prepare, but we are also unable to interest young people in the profession.

THE MAIN REASON for this deplorable fact is purely financial. The teachers pay in North Carolina cannot compete with industry's salaries. Nor can our schools compete with the salaries of some of the other southern states.

But, you're probably asking, isn't the salary situation improving? On the contrary. During the 1955-56 school year, the average teacher salary in



North Carolina was \$3,300. This year it dropped to \$3,291, and the state dropped five places in rank of teacher pay. It now is 38th.

We have added less to the average teacher salary since 1950 than any other state in the Southeast.

Only 11 per cent of our teachers makes \$3,500 (only two other states in the Southeast are lower on the percentage basis); and only one out of every 200 of North Carolina's teachers makes \$4,500 or more (only one state in the southeast trails us here).

The self-satisfied will say: "What can we do—the state tax dollar is already stretched to the limit." But the committee should remind you that the state support of your schools was set up to provide only the minimum program, and for too long counties have looked upon it as the maximum. It's now time for the local units to evaluate their own system of school financing.

IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD more and better qualified teachers for your children, can you then afford to support state colleges which train your North Carolinians to teach and then lose them to other states because grass is greener there?

The Governor's committee can present you with the problems and suggestions for their solution, but only you can ultimately solve them.

Only you can tell your local state educational administrators what you want—and demand—for your children. And you are the one involved for it's your children who are without teachers.

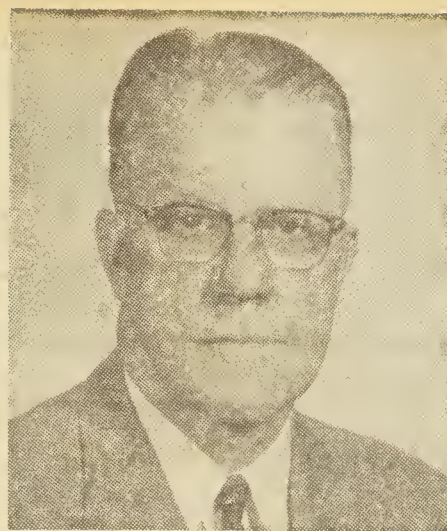
Our teachers are already on strike in this state. They voice their displeasure with their lot not by picking the front of a school building, but by silently moving away.

THE CAROLINA FARMER

In the **Opinion** *of*

HARRY B. CALDWELL

Master
N. C. State Grange



FARMERS CAN GET TELEPHONES THROUGH COOPERATIVE EFFORT

Many rural communities of North Carolina have struggled for 20 years and longer to secure telephone service.

The North Carolina State Grange initiated the rural telephone program and was finally successful in securing the passage of state and federal legislation which authorizes the Rural Electrification Authority to provide assistance to any community seeking adequate service. Federal loan funds are provided, and provisions are made for the formation of telephone membership corporations when necessary in achieving the objectives.

During the 8 years that funds have been allocated and personnel assigned to the REA rural telephone program, the State has experienced the greatest growth in telephone development of any similar period in its history. This progress has been the result of the combined efforts of telephone companies, cooperatives, municipalities, mutuals, the North Carolina Rural Electrification Authority, and the North Carolina Utilities Commission, striving to answer a need of organized and unorganized rural groups.

Within the past several months developments have occurred in the rural telephone program which, unless corrected, I believe will not only deprive thousands of rural North Carolinians of vital communication service, but will also tend to weaken the joint efforts of thousands of rural

people now receiving or planning to receive telephone service through telephone membership corporations.

Rural people have every reason to be alarmed at the seriousness of a development which threatens to further postpone or prevent their securing telephone service. It is a problem of which they need to be aware, and which they can solve if they join themselves together as time and time again rural people have. Together, they can clarify beyond question, correct, and strengthen the present Rural Telephone Act as embodied in Chapter 117, General Statutes of North Carolina. When this is done I am convinced that the development of rural telephone service in North Carolina will not only continue at its present rate of growth but will be considerably increased.

To assure rural people the most rapid telephone development in the years that lie ahead, it is important that steps be taken by the legislature to correct the present laws, and authorize the Rural Electrification Authority to charter a telephone membership corporation to serve any existing unserved feasible area of the state; to enable the Rural Electrification Authority and the telephone membership corporations to defend the areas they are chartered to serve; and to require local calling-interconnecting contracts between telephone companies and telephone membership corporations on a reciprocal basis.

Harry B. Caldwell

This column is designed to bring our readers a responsible opinion on matters of concern to them. You may or may not agree with the views expressed here, but we feel this is an opinion you can respect. It is not necessarily the opinion of the editor on this subject.

FARMING

news and information
you can use

SPEAK SOFTLY: Every year about this time, the N. C. Experiment Station climbs out on a limb by issuing a list of *recommended* tobacco varieties. This year, facing a situation where anything you say about tobacco is probably the wrong thing, the Station backed off its limb by releasing a list of *principal* varieties, catalogued according to characteristics and with notations about the market demand. If the grower isn't satisfied with his variety, he can't blame it on the Experiment Station's advice.

Even Coker's 139 and 140, and the Station's own Dixie Bright 244, are listed but with the warning that they are low in flavor and aroma, generally of light body, and/or have poor acceptance among buyers. Last year 139 and 140 didn't make the recommended list," while 244 did.

YOU CAN HEAR a lot of complaining from some who did plant 244, a higher yielding member of the disease resistant Dixie Bright family. Most frequent gripe: "You can't cure it."

Experiment Station Scientist Guy Jones and Extension Tobacco Specialist Sam Hawks said part of the trouble with 244 can be traced to the time of its release:

It came out in the fact of a 12 per cent cut, and many farmers over-fertilized and over-watered it in an effort to gain yield. This occurred even among the farmers who test-grow varieties for the Station. The year before, the same farmers grew 244 with notable success, and some did all right this year; one Border Belt grower, who has fusarium wilt in his land, made \$1,200 an acre with the variety.

Actually, little of the 244 was planted last year—less than 5 per cent of the crop—and there will probably be less this year. The USDA has announced it intends to cut supports drastically on 139, 140, and 244. One observer forecast that some farmers will gamble on 139, hoping company buyers will take it.

The Experiment Station, mean-

while, is working on disease-resistant lines with more flavor.

FARMER'S TURNED DOWN a Benson-backed plan of "full flexibility" for corn in favor of the old sliding scale supports and acreage allotments in a December 11 election. Benson's plan would have wiped corn off the basic commodity list, and allowed him to set supports wherever he wanted to. Growers, by failing to give the Benson proposal a two-thirds margin, voted to accept smaller acreage in favor of sure supports.

AGRICULTURAL LEADERS have suggested that farmers look to quality fruit and vegetable production to make up for income loss they'll suffer because of tobacco cuts. Some members of the family evidently are already heading in that direction:

The State College vegetable judging team went up to Grand Rapids, Mich. and came back with third place honors in the National Vegetable Growers contest. It was the first year the college had entered. R. H. Morris, Maxton; Lee Cash, Shelby; and Don Hudson, Zircon, made up the team. The FCX and Seedsmen's Association sponsored the trip.

ANOTHER VEGETABLE GROWER, Roy Keller of Carteret County, harvested 400 bushels of certified Puerto Rico sweet potatoes recently; he grew them from 50 bushels of certified seed and subsequent cuttings. The N. C. Crop Improvement Association expects to see more yields like this in 1957. Enough certified sweet potato seed was produced in the state last year to seed 3,100 acres. You can get a list of certified growers by writing to the association at N. C. State College, Raleigh.

HOW LADY-LIKE can a cow get? Andrew Elmore of Casar, Route 1, has a good producer that insists on a massage with hand cream. The cow's udder was inflamed and cracked, so Elmore tried a popular hand cream, guaranteed to make milady's skin a lovely thing to touch. The cream is expensive, but the cow

is now milking 83 pounds a day, and is quite contented.

Another cow story comes from A. M. Foltz of Winston-Salem, whose 10-year-old "Jane" dropped triplet calves back in the fall. They're doing fine. In 10 years, she has had 11 calves—including two sets of twins and the triplets. One of her daughters recently had twins at her first lactation.

AS FOR AS WE KNOW, Foltz isn't on the program at the N. C. Dairymen's Conference to be held at State College February 12-13, but there will be plenty of other successful dairymen at the popular meeting. This year they'll learn about what to shop for in bulk tanks; getting cows settled; what keeps conception rates down; feeding and managing the dairy herd; and news about dairy research under way at the college. The institution is calling on its own staff plus a cooler-full of out-of-state dairy talent to present the information.

**SOUTHERN ENGINEERING
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ARCHITECTS—ENGINEERS

ATLANTA, GEORGIA



H. M. ELLIS is well-qualified to write the lead article for CF's irrigation section which begins on page 7. As head of agricultural engineering for the State College Extension Service, he has become "Mr. Irrigation" to Tar Heel farmers. Two months ago, he was named "Man of the Year" by the National Sprinkler Irrigation Association. We think you'll be helped by his comments on irrigation, and those of some of your neighbors on succeeding pages.

THE CAROLINA FARMER

Irrigation from Emergency Measure to Production Practice



By H. M. ELLIS

BUT it rained the next day, so I cancelled my order.

That little statement has been voiced by an unbelievable number of Carolina farmers during the past two years. Were these farmers right in cancelling their orders? Were all the farmers who bought expensive equipment during the long drought sucked in by a fancy advertising campaign? Just where does irrigation fit into our farm picture? These questions are causing farmers, agricultural workers, and distributors of irrigation equipment a lot of concern. To find answers, we have to start at the beginning: Just what is irrigation?

Simply, it is the practice of replenishing soil moisture. We do this in order to produce crops. Different plants vary in their

Where
is
the
broken stave
in your



**Production
Barrel?**

(Continued from Page 7)

needs for nutrients just as different animals vary in their needs for food, but all plants must have adequate soil moisture before they can properly use the nutrients we have placed in the soil.

This is the point at which we should start thinking about irrigation.

If we set out to produce crops with the minimum amount of investment and with the least possible effort, we can naturally expect very poor harvests. Certainly we would not undertake to irrigate such a crop because there would be such a small amount of plant nutrient available that an abundance of soil moisture could not alone correct the trouble.

Our "production barrel", shown here, illustrates that fact, and helps us put irrigation in its proper place. The staves of the barrel are the practices we use to produce a crop, and their height shows how well we carry out the practice. Our goal is to fill the barrel.

In the case illustrated here, the farmer did a complete job of preparing the soil, and he used certified seed. So far he hasn't limited his production. But he did not use the full amount of fertilizer recommended; already he is handicapped even more by the poor job of insect control he did. Worst of all, his crop suffers from lack of water, and he has no way to apply it.

His production is determined by this lowest stave. Even if all of the other staves were complete, he could fill his barrel no higher than the "water" stave.

Ask yourself, "What are the factors limiting my production?" In your case, you may have all the barrel staves completed except management. Wherever the gap is, you won't make the profit you should until you close it.

The importance of doing a good job on any neglected practice increase as you invest more time and money in the other production practices. You can find proof of this right in your neighborhood. One of your neighbors has not improved his methods of producing corn during the past 20 years, and he is making 26 bushels an acre—a little below the state average. He invests only about \$44 an acre in his corn crops.

Another farmer has learned new methods from his county agent and put them into practice. He has invested about \$70 an acre and gradually increased the length of his production barrel staves until he is making 100

(Continued on Page 13)

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DEALER INQUIRIES INVITED

THE CAROLINA FARM



George Moye flips a switch and he has water, pumped by this 65-hp electric motor.



Moye demonstrates for F. T. Carr one of 80 hydrants. Carr is office manager of Pitt-Greene Rural Electric Cooperative.

This farmer invests heavily in irrigation system and harvests BIG returns

North Carolina remembers 1956 as a year with plenty of rainfall, yet a successful Greene County farmer irrigated 1 of his tobacco five times. And it paid off.

George Moye of Farmville, who owns and operates a large farm near Ayden, recalls a critical time last June when farmers in his area who couldn't irrigate faced ruin. Luckily, it rained just in time to save their crop, but many growers suffered losses.

Moye doesn't hedge when asked to give an opinion of his irrigation system.

● "I've used it for the past two years—'wet years'—and it's been worth \$200 an acre on my tobacco.

● "I irrigated my cotton back when it was so dry, and made an extra half-acre an acre.

● "We irrigated a piece of corn and made 104 bushels an acre on it. In the same field, where we didn't irrigate, we made only 65 bushels.

"In one real dry year my irrigation system could actually pay for itself."

His system is a big one, and expensive, but Moye feels it has been worth every penny it cost, and he has made a success of farming during a difficult time when most farmers were retrenching rather than investing.

He's made it by keeping abreast of the latest reliable farming information, and putting it into practice. He follows recommended rotations, makes soil tests on all of his tobacco land, and does the other things that help insure his crop and increase quality and production.

When Moye went shopping for an irrigation system, he looked for a permanent layout that would be easy to operate and require little maintenance.

He talked with Pitt-Greene Rural Electric Cooperative, of which he is a member, and found it would bring three-phase power to his farm to operate an irrigation system. In keeping with co-op policy, it would not require him to pay the construction and equip-

ment cost of running the new line to his farm. Moye signed a five-year contract to use a certain amount of power each year, and bought his motor and irrigation equipment from a reliable firm which offered a good planning service.

Here is what he has:

A 65-horsepower electric pump, 330-foot well, 6,000 feet of buried six-inch pipe connected to 80 hydrants located at the edges of his fields, and portable pipe with sprinklers every 60 feet.

When Moye wants to irrigate, he runs the portable pipe down the rows, couples it to the hydrants, flips a switch, and he has "rain."

He placed the main line underground in a manner that allows him to use gravity to keep the line full. Otherwise, he'd have to wait about 10 minutes for the line to fill.

Even with his sizable electric bill, Moye declares, "Personally, I think an electric motor is cheaper than other power for irrigation. There's not much that can happen to an electric motor."

Water For Tobacco

By S. N. HAWKS, JR.

Extension Tobacco Specialist

Interest is continuing to grow in the use of supplemental irrigation on flue-cured tobacco. Each year there are additional growers who are investing money in water supplies and irrigation equipment in an effort to reduce the risks of producing a poor tobacco crop because of dry weather. Weather data and experiments have shown that almost every year there is at least one period during the growing season when one or more irrigations will increase acre returns and profit.

Listed below are some of the benefits that might be expected for irrigation of tobacco:

1. A light irrigation immediately after transplanting will usually improve stands and early growth.

2. If irrigation is used properly it should help prevent low yields and poor quality caused by dry weather.

3. Leaf scale during dry, hot weather should be reduced or prevented by supplying adequate moisture.

4. Adequate moisture will usually insure earlier maturity and harvest which usually means better quality.

5. Sufficient moisture may tend to reduce some root diseases.

6. If a crop has been over-fertilized, there is a possibility of leaching out some of this fertilizer by over-watering and therefore forcing the crop to ripen.

Even though there are quite a few rather large advantages in favor of being able to irrigate tobacco, there are also some disadvantages that should be considered.

1. There is always a chance of getting rain soon after an irrigation which will increase the chances of leaching out a part of the fertilizer and drowning some tobacco, especially in low areas.

2. In using water from ponds and streams there is a possibility of spreading diseases such as blackshank. This is of special importance if susceptible varieties are used.

3. There is a possibility of using water with enough chlorine to damage the quality of the tobacco.

4. Non-uniform distribution of water can cause irregular growth.

5. Excessive water, whether from irrigation, rain or a combination of both can cause tobacco to have a "washed-out" appearance and be low in aroma

and flavor which lowers the over-all quality of the leaf.

The soil type, the season of the year and the weather are some of the main factors that will determine how often, the amount and how fast tobacco should be watered.

Each farm and each season is enough different from any other so that a grower must make a new decision each time on when to irrigate, how much water to use, etc. In making these decisions the following "rules of thumb" might be helpful.

1. If the crop wilts early in the day and the top two or three inches of soil is dry, it is time to water. (A daily record of water use and rainfall can be kept for more definite decisions.) Sandy soils may be watered more often and should receive less water per application than the heavier soils. Also the water can be applied faster on sandier soils than on heavier soils.

2. All soils will usually lose more water during the longer days of June than they will during shorter days.

3. The degree of cloudiness or brightness during the day will affect the amount of water loss from the soil.

Generally during dry seasons the deep sandy soils should receive one-half to three-fourths inches of water every three to five days and the heavier, tighter tobacco soils should receive one to one and one-half inches every six to eight days. The sandier soils can be watered at the rate of about three-fourths to one inch per hour and the heavier soils at the rate of one-fourth to one-third inch per hour. Tobacco can be successfully watered any time during the day or night.

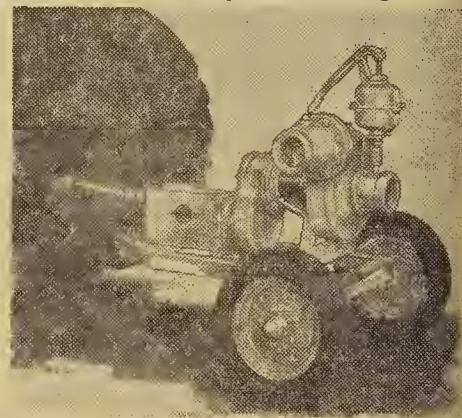
Any time that tobacco wilts excessively or is not growing because of a shortage of moisture it will pay to irrigate; however, dry weather is more critical at some stages of growth than at others. Probably two of the most important times to water are right after transplanting and between the "knee-high" stage and the "topping" stage. Dry weather between the time the stand is established and the time it is "knee-high" apparently doesn't hurt the crop very much. In fact, some people think that dry weather during this period actually helps the crop. Also, a shortage of moisture during the harvest period is not nearly

as serious as it is just prior to harvest.

Based on the evidence at hand there is no suggestion for changing the fertilizer rate or analysis if tobacco is to be irrigated as compared to a non-irrigated crop.

For those growers who have sufficient water, irrigation seems to be a profitable step. However, since there is a chance of over-watering, it is felt that irrigation of tobacco should be used as an insurance against dry weather, rather than something to help produce unusually high yields. Light frequent waterings have given best results with tobacco.

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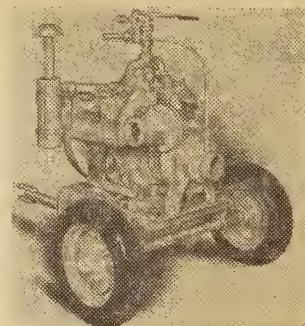


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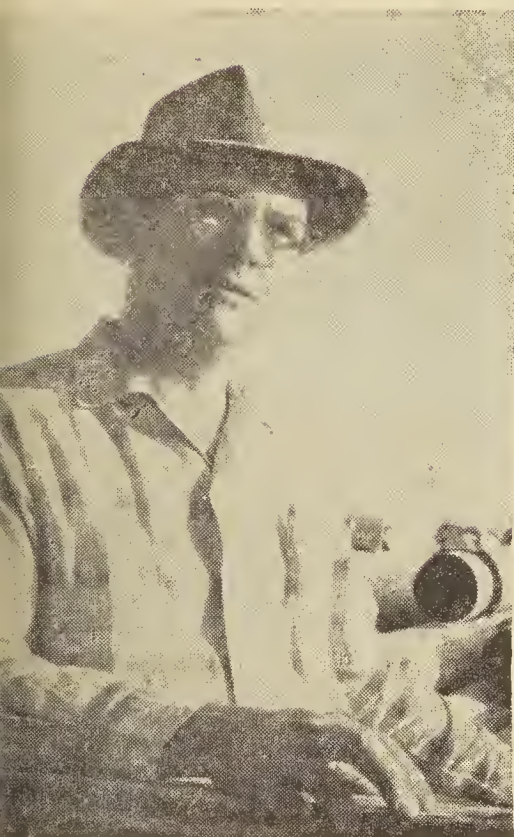


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'It paid for itself *the first year*'



Hassell Thigpen, of Tarboro, Route 2, believes irrigation pays on high money crops that will respond to few waterings. Beyond that, he is dubious. Thigpen is a consumer-member of Edgcombe-Martin Electric Cooperative.

Irrigation was a long way from Hassell Thigpen's mind along about the first of December. If there was anything he didn't want it was water, or prolonged visits.

It was understandable. He was busy directing the picking of peanuts on his farm near Tarboro—a job long delayed by a wet fall.

Nevertheless, he found a few minutes to recount his experience with irrigation. A veteran so far as North Carolina irrigation is concerned, he has had his system but three years.

He figures it paid for itself the first year. Since then, it's been of little use to him, he believes.

That first year, 1954, was a drought year, and Thigpen calculated that his irrigation system was worth \$400 an acre on his tobacco alone.

"We had a terrific yield."

He also found his system, powered by a gasoline motor which pumps 1,300 gallons of water a minute, valuable in transplanting in 1955.

With experience in watering several other crops, Thigpen concluded that irrigation pays on crops that respond to a few waterings, but not on those that take many.

He knows it pays on tobacco, and feels that it will probably pay on corn. And there's a possibility it will pay on peanuts. One year, when his corn was

spotty, he watered the crop once. "It really brought it out," he reported.

How useful irrigation would be on peanuts will depend upon their price and water requirements. Thigpen doesn't know the long-term answer to the first question, and he hasn't experimented enough to answer the second.

He irrigated milo one year and almost doubled his yield with one watering, but he doubts it is practical because of the relatively low returns from the crop.

"I'm doubtful of the wisdom of irrigating anything but a high-money crop," Thigpen said.

Irrigating is hard work, he has found, and you want a pretty good return when you use it.

"You'll never appreciate the value of rain until you start to water," he asserted. "But if all we had was good weather, there'd be no reason for irrigation. It can sure save you in a dry year."

Turning to a colored tenant, who has carried many a length of irrigation pipe through the fields, Thigpen asked for his opinion.

"Hard work, all right, but I like what it brings!" was the response.

Most men who farmed through the dry years from 1950 to 1954 with the help of irrigation would agree.



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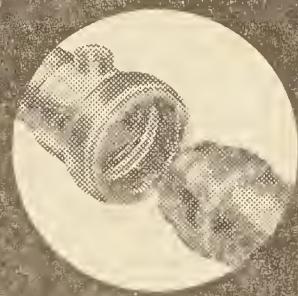
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Paul Bunce finds that growing vegetables involves problems of water, salesmanship, and labor. He has the first two under control and gets some help from sons David and Steve on the other.

OFF-SEASON GREENS

Can't wait for rain

Paul Bunce of Stedman, down in Cumberland County, is something of a rarity in Tobacco and Cotton Land. He makes his living growing off-season greens—not just a garden patch, but 65 acres of them.

When you make your living on greens there are two things you must have in Bunce's opinion—water and salesmanship, at the right time. Bunce looks after both details while the crop is growing.

Off-season greens are summer greens; they reach market during the scorching months when "nobody" else has them to sell. "You've got to have water for them, and you can't depend on rain," Bunce declared the other day. "Greens can go down fast in dry weather. Two or three days delay in water when they need it can ruin them."

From the latter part of May to the first of June, Bunce irrigates to get the seed up, but the big watering job comes from three dug ponds. He can irrigate two acres at a time with a gasoline-powered system that puts out 36,000 gallons an hour. His water comes from three dug ponds.

Bunce, whose father and brother are also greens' growers and members of South River Rural Electric Cooperative, operates in an increasingly competitive

field—one in which the risks are always many. He can't afford to add to them by leaving soil moisture up to nature.

The toughest job in earning your living with greens is the selling, and Bunce does most of his salesmanship in the field. "We cut it right, and we fix it right," he explained.

He has a route salesman, and most of his produce goes to stores and restaurants in Fayetteville. It's something unusual to find a farmer selling on consignment, but that's exactly what Bunce does with 90 per cent of his greens.

If they don't sell, he picks them up. "It work out in the long run," he has found. "I might go into a store, and the manager says he still has three bunches of my collards and doesn't need any. Maybe they're beginning to look bad and never will sell, so I pick them up and sell him a crate of fresh ones."

With a warning that he enjoys complaining a little, Bunce observed that the produce business is getting tougher all the time.

"The price of greens have been falling for the past four or five years," he reported—a situation he attributes to increased competition as cotton and tobacco allotments are cut and farmers look for new sources of income.

Labor is becoming a more significant

cost item. "The man who works for you needs more money than ever. You can't pay him off with a bag of potatoes. He wants television, and a good home, and good clothes for his children, too."

Bunce looked longingly at two tiny sons. "You need a big family to solve your labor problems," he mused. He has three boys and one girl. The oldest son is 11, the daughter is 14.

With as much pride as parental complaint, he pointed out that the older youngsters were pretty busy with school affairs and extra-curricular activities.

There's another problem, too, that the greens' grower faces, and that involves a bottleneck in the flow of marketing information. This consideration is partly responsible for Bunce's decision to sell most of his produce directly to stores rather than on large wholesale markets.

He illustrated the problem with a recent example. "A neighbor of mine took a load of cabbage to market and sat there for two days, and couldn't sell them. At the same time, there was a fellow near here who wanted to buy cabbage at a good price. They didn't know about each other."

"Then, too, when you sell directly to the retailer, he gets to know you—knows where to find you."

THE CAROLINA FARMER

PRODUCTION PRACTICE

(Continued from Page 8)

bushels of corn an acre. This farmer has a good bit more to lose than his neighbor who makes only 26 bushels. He risks his larger investment plus 4 bushels an acre more corn in a dry year. He can't afford to risk a drought, so he prepares to irrigate.

Look at the farmers who use irrigation in North Carolina. Among them are vegetable and fruit growers, nurserymen, flower growers, and tobacco farmers—men who are highly-specialized producers employing a lot of know-how to grow "high-money" crops.

Do you realize that more and more every year you are competing with this type of producer at the market? This competition and the ever-increasing cost of hand labor is forcing you, whether you like it or not, to mechanize. This calls for more investment in equipment, and you must employ more businesslike methods.

There is no question that irrigation can improve the quality and yield of our crops. As you become experienced, you will irrigate every year, wet or dry. Naturally the number of irrigations will vary from year to year. The question you want to decide is: am I ready to irrigate? The answer

will depend upon your limiting factors of production. Then you will want to consider how much it will pay.

We are going to do a lot of irrigating in North Carolina in the future. We are going to continue to have so called wet and dry years, and this variable rainfall is going to be a big factor in postponing irrigation on a lot of farms.

Some farmers have already learned than an irrigation immediately after cutting alfalfa eliminates most of the shock, and the stand is spared the danger of a dry spell.

Others have learned that they can germinate seed and start a crop when they want to by applying water as they need it. This largely eliminates the danger of a heavy washing rain on an unprotected soil. The great savings experienced during droughts when stands of alfalfa, pasture, and other crops are lost to such an extent that reseeding is necessary are real success stories, and there are plenty of examples; but the thought I want to leave with you is this:

Irrigation is a production tool.

You can compare it with your tractor—you use it when you need it. It is a production tool in North Carolina

as well as in the arid West. We should not wait until a dry year to buy it. We should buy it when water is the limiting factor in our production.

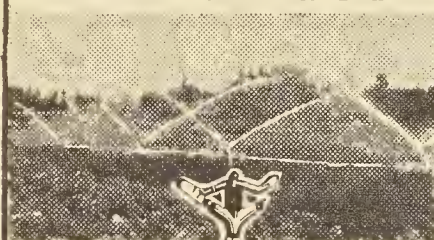
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More

About Tomatoes

When *Carolina Farmer* carried a story on Harry Thomas' success with fall tomatoes, requests for fuller information was so great that we went to the horticultural department of the Extension Service for the story, and here we present its recommendations:

This warm weather crop requires 100 to 140 days growing season, and promises the successful producer high returns. About 8 weeks of the

period is spent in growing plants for transplanting. Commercially, tomatoes can be grown in the Eastern and Piedmont sections, both as a spring and fall crop; and in the mountains during the summer.

Irrigation should be provided, especially for a fall crop, to increase yields and reduce cracking and blossom-end rot of fruit. Average yield is about 6½ tons per acre, although yields of red-ripe fruit for canning have reached 15 tons.

Varieties

There are many varieties being offered for sale by seedsmen. The varieties listed have been tested and are recommended by the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station.

Homestead—85 days from plant setting to first harvest. Resistant to fusarium wilt. Fruits large, globular, bright red, smooth, thick-walled. Excellent quality. Recommended for both home gardens and commercial plantings.

Big Boy—A hybrid, 86 days from plant setting to first harvest. Fruits large, meaty, red; high yielder, not wilt-resistant. For home gardens where fusarium wilt is not a problem.

Rutgers—86 days from plant setting to first harvest. Tolerant to fusarium wilt. Fruits globular, smooth, bright red, thick-walled, excellent quality. Recommended for both home gardens and commercial plantings.

Valiant—70 days from plant setting to first harvest. Not fusarium wilt-resistant. Fruits large, globe-shaped, bright scarlet; plants open, leaves sparse. Recommended for early spring and fall crops because of its ability to set fruits early even during adverse weather conditions.

There are no varieties that are resistant to bacterial wilt (same as Granville wilt in tobacco).

Seeding

Two to three ounces of good seed will

produce enough plants to set one acre. Use certified seed if possible.

Some seedsmen furnish seed already treated. They will be stamped "Treated." If your seeds were not treated, do so yourself before planting. Use Yellow Cuproside or Spergon at the rate of one level teaspoonful per pound of seed.

Growing Plants

Spring Crop (Commercial)

For the upper Piedmont and mountain areas a hotbed is necessary to have stocky plants 8 or more inches tall by the date of the last killing frost in the spring. Of the three types used for plant production (electric heated, flue heated, and manure heated) the electric heated is the most dependable and efficient.

In most areas of the State current rates are now low enough to permit its use in a hotbed.

Sow the seed 8 weeks before transplanting date. For the Coastal Plain area, or in areas where earliness is not too important, the seed may be sown in a coldframe with glass or glass substitute covers.

Locate the plant bed on a well-drained loamy soil and near an adequate supply of water. Fumigate the plant bed with methyl bromide to reduce nematodes and other soil-borne diseases. If you don't fumigate, be sure that tomatoes, or other related crops such as peppers, Irish potatoes

or eggplants, have not been grown in the soil for at least four years.

A bed 6 feet wide and 15 feet long is sufficient for plants for one acre. Use composted soil if possible. Thoroughly mix a 4-9-6 fertilizer with the soil at the rate of ¾ pound per square yard, five to ten days before seeding. It is very important to thoroughly mix the fertilizer with the top three to four inches of soil to prevent fertilizer injury and poor stands. Have the soil in a loose pulverized condition at the time of sowing.

Use a wide board to lay off and form the rows across the bed in which to sow the seed. The board allows the grower to stand on it while sowing and at the same time firms the soil prior to planting. Make the rows a minimum of four inches apart; the wider the rows the stockier the plants will be. Sow the seed at the rate of 4 to 6 per inch. Cover the seed with a ¼ inch layer of loamy soil that will not crust. Water the bed thoroughly and uniformly, with a hose sprinkler or sprinkling can, after seeding.

After emergence, water sufficiently for good growth but do not over-water. Excessive watering increases danger from "damping off." It is best to water in the morning on sunny days so that the plants will dry off by night. Ventilate beds, especially on sunny days, but do not chill by allowing cold wind drafts to blow over the young plants.

Close beds a few hours before sundown to "trap the heat from the sun."

Covers are left off of plant beds for progressively longer periods of time as the plants grow older, and are taken off altogether for the last 10 to 14 days before setting in the field except during adverse weather conditions.

Approximately 3,630 plants are needed to set one acre in the field when spaced 3 by 4 feet.

Fall Crop (Commercial)

Sow seed in open beds between May 1 to May 20 for the mountain area; May 15 to June 1 for the Piedmont area; and June 1 to June 15 for Coastal Plain area.

The method of growing the plants is similar to that previously described for the spring crop. The temperatures, when the seed germinate, are usually so high that the seedlings will be injured unless shading is provided. It is suggested that tobacco cloth be used over the bed but placed about two feet above it so as to allow for proper ventilation. Remove this cover after the plants have produced their first set of true leaves.

Soils and Fertilization

The ideal soil for growing tomatoes is a well-drained loam or sandy loam that has a high organic matter content, and a soil pH of 5.5 to 6.5. Sandy soils that dry out rapidly should not be used unless irrigation can be provided. Soils heavily infested with nematodes should be fumigated. Avoid planting in soils having bacterial wilt.

Tomatoes are "heavy feeders." It is advisable to turn under a green manure crop a minimum of three to four weeks before setting the crop. In addition, a heavy application of stable manure is beneficial, especially on sandy soils.

Use a 5-10-10 fertilizer at the rate of 800 to 1,200 pounds per acre. Half of this fertilizer may be placed in the row about a week before planting time. The remainder may be put in as a side dressing about three weeks after transplanting. Some growers have obtained good results by splitting the side-dress application; that is, applying 200 to 300 pounds of fertilizer about three weeks after transplanting and then again 200 to 300 pounds two to three weeks later. The side dressing should be put in as deep as conventional equipment will permit and three to five inches out from the plant to prevent root injury.

The above recommendations are made for average soil conditions. It is always advisable to take a soil sample and send it to the Soil Testing Laboratory, N. C. Department of Agriculture, Raleigh, N. C. for an analysis. They

will make appropriate recommendations for this particular soil.

Side dress with 15 pounds of Nitrogen when first blooms set fruit and then again 30 days later.

Starter Solution

Quick growth following transplanting is desirable. Instead of using plain water at transplanting, give the plant a boost by using a starter solution at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 pint per plant. It is usually made by dissolving 5 pounds (weigh it) of 5-10-10 fertilizer in 50 gallons of water. For small quantities, mix 4 level tablespoonsful of fertilizer in each gallon of water. Stir for several minutes before using the solution.

Transplanting

Spring Crop—As soon as danger of frost is past.

Fall Crop

Mountains June 1-15.

Piedmont June 15-July 1.

Coastal Plain July 1-15.

If plants are not to be staked several combinations of row width and spacing in the row may be used, such as: 5-foot rows and $2\frac{1}{2}$ -foot spacing; and 4-foot rows with 3-foot spacing. Wide rows are preferable as it permits equipment for controlling insects and diseases to get through without damaging the vines.

It is recommended that the home gardener prune and stake his tomato crop. Plants pruned and staked may be spaced 2 feet apart in the row with rows as close together as 4 feet.

Drive a 6-foot stake four inches from each plant. When plants begin to branch, tie a strong soft string (or cloth strips) firmly around the stake and loosely around the plant below each fruit cluster as they develop. Remove the suckers as they appear.

The advantages of pruning and staking are: (1) Less rotting of the fruit during wet weather; (2) the first fruit ripens 3 to 5 days earlier; (3) ripe fruits are easier to find and more convenient to pick; (4) larger fruit size; and (5) it is easier to do a thorough job of dusting or spraying to control insects and diseases.

The disadvantages are: (1) More time and cost involved in growing the crop; and (2) total yield is slightly less than when not staked and pruned.

Cultivation

Practice shallow cultivation and only as often as is necessary to control

grass and weeds. Do not cultivate after the plants spread to such an extent that they will be damaged by the equipment.

For the home gardeners it is advisable to mulch the crop with leaves or straw. This practice conserves moisture, helps keep down weed growth, and reduces the amount of blossom-end rot.

Gardeners often experience difficulty in getting tomato blooms to set fruit. This may be caused by any one or a combination of the following factors: (1) Too much shade; (2) too much nitrogen fertilizer; and (3) high temperatures—if the blooms appear when the temperature is above 92 degrees very few if any set fruit.

Harvesting

For local market, pick the fruit when pink but before full ripe; for shipping, as mature-green fruit or "green-wraps," pick when the pulp that surrounds the seeds becomes slightly jelly-like and the seeds are well-developed.

At this stage of ripeness the tomato has lost its glossy green sheen and has a dull green cast; and around the base of the stem, most of the tomatoes have a russet-yellow colored ring often approaching orange.

With a few varieties, like the Homestead, the immature fruits are firm and glossy green giving no indication of stage of maturity by early changes in color. To prevent picking these varieties too early for "green-wraps" the grower should cut a few tomatoes crosswise to check for seed maturity and pulp jellying and thus associate the color and firmness of his particular variety with its stage of maturity.

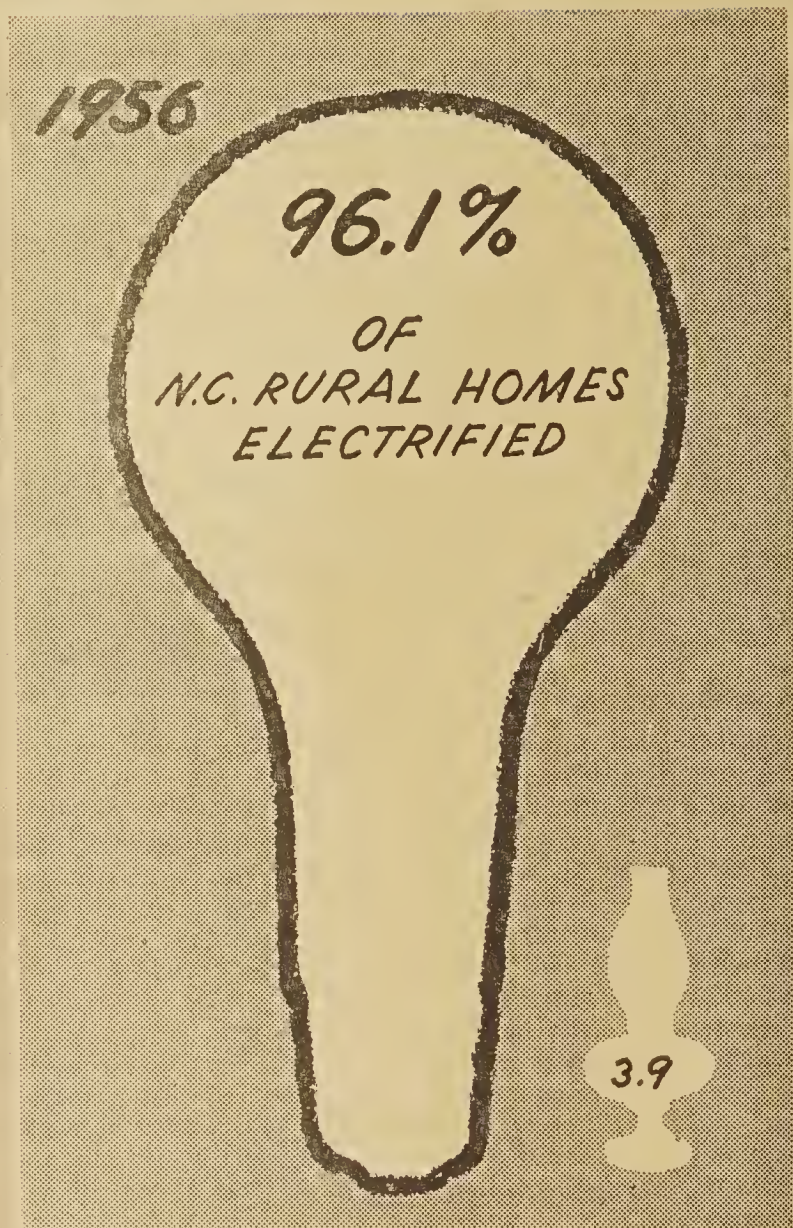
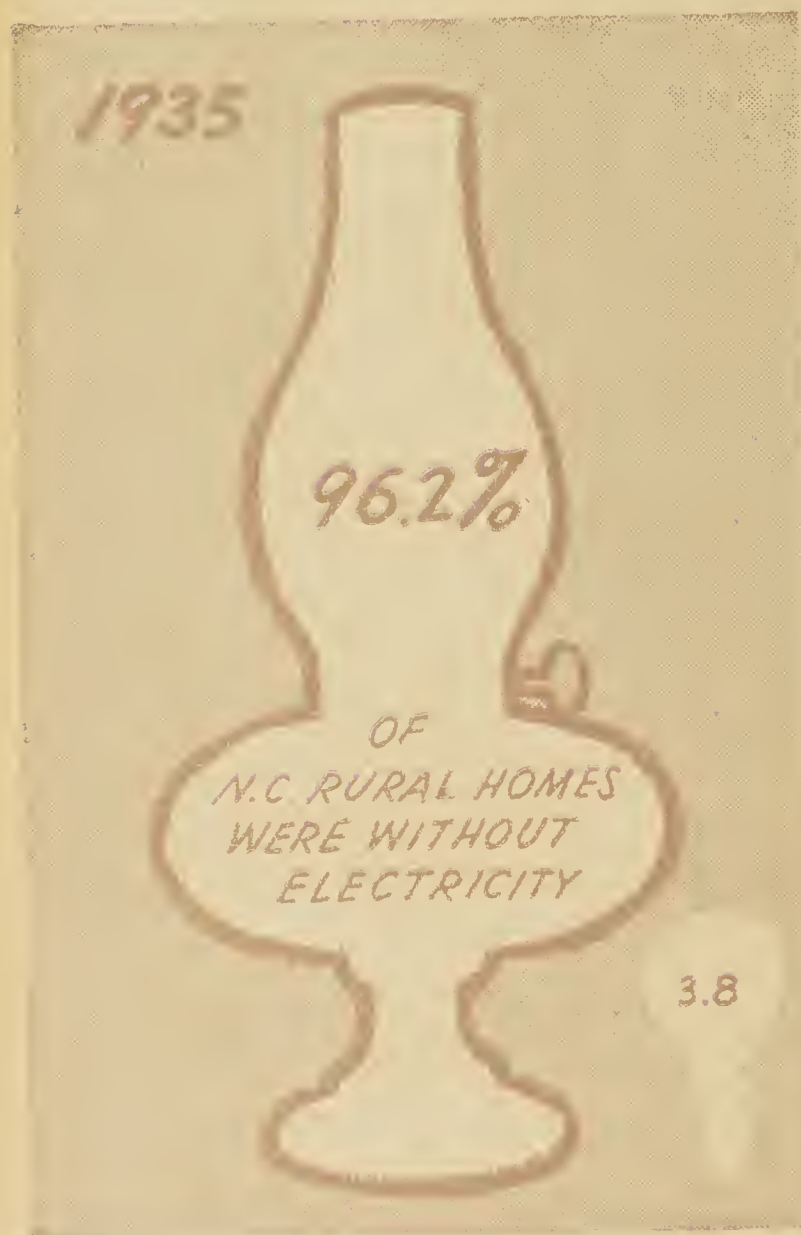
Green wraps picked too early will not ripen. Do not leave the stem on the fruit as it will bruise and puncture other fruit in the container.

Remove crates from the field immediately after picking and hold them in the shade until they can be taken to the packing shed. A few hours in the sun after picking will cause the tomatoes to sunburn. Do not pick when tomatoes are wet as this spreads diseases.

Insect Control

To control blister beetle dust with cryolite; for hornworms use TDE; and for tomato fruit worm or flea beetle use either cryolite, DDT or TDE. For fruitworms, begin treatment when first fruits form and repeat at four or five day intervals. Wash or wipe fruits at harvest time.

The Big Switch . . .



Report to Governor shows how REA and electric co-ops brought light to rural Carolina and wrote amazing record of cooperative business success

By WILLIAM T. CRISP

As high a percentage of North Carolina's rural families were receiving electric service in 1956 as were unable to get it 21 years ago. The almost exact reversal of the "haves" and the "have nots" was spelled out last month in an official report presented to Governor Luther H. Hodges.

Prepared by the North Carolina Rural Electrification Authority, the report showed that 96.1 per cent of the state's rural homes are now electrified. In 1935, the report revealed, 96.2 per cent of the same homes were *without* electric power.

The Authority's figures were based on surveys of the 13 power companies, 58 towns, and 36 rural electric cooperatives that distribute electricity to 569,495 rural families in the state. These families represent an estimated 2½ million men, women, and children.

Of the total rural consumers reported, the three major power companies—Duke, CP&L and VEPCO—were serving 320,000. The cooperatives, including four that extend service from adjoining states, were serving 181,000. The 10 small power companies and the 58 towns were serving 68,000.

The Authority reported that for the third straight year North Carolina's percentage of electrified rural homes surpassed the nation's average, which is 94.2 per cent.

By far the most revealing figures in the report were those showing the number of rural consumers served in proportion to the miles of line constructed. The many-times-repeated charge that the power companies have "skimmed the cream" in rural areas was dramatically shown. These companies, serving 337,000 rural families from only 36,000 miles of line, have an average

Only 20 years after birth of REA, the statistics are reversed

of 9.4 customers per mile.

The cooperatives, serving 181,000 members from 40,000 miles of line, have an average of only 4.5 consumers per mile.

The Authority's records of electrification progress reflect the competitive force of the co-ops in stimulating commercial companies to extend service to rural people. For instance, by 1936—the year REA was enacted by Congress and the cooperatives began organizing—the utility companies had a total of only 829 miles of rural line.

By July of 1937—the year the co-ops first began operating—the same utilities had built an additional 3,080 miles of rural line. The impact of the co-ops' pioneering in rural service has been similarly reflected in power company expansion every year since.

If anyone had any doubt that North Carolina's farm population has been steadily dwindling, the Authority's report to Governor Hodges should remove it. In 1936 more than 78 of every 100 rural homes having electric service belonged to farm families. In 1956, only 47 out of every 100 homes were inhabited by farm families.

Rural electrification got another progress report last month. In Washington REA administrator David Hamil announced that the "rural electric systems have gained the strongest position in the 21-year history of the program." His statement was fully supported by the record electric cooperatives have made in repaying their REA construction loans with interest.

Almost \$2.8 billion have been loaned to the nation's REA borrowers, all but a few of which are cooperatives. As of September 30, 1956, these borrowers had made nearly \$99,000,000 in advance loan payments alone, Hamil stated. Moreover, only 12 out of the nearly 1,000 borrowers were behind schedule in paying their loans off. These 12, Hamil said, were \$467,831 in arrears, which represents default on only 1/100th of 1 per cent of total funds loaned over a 21-year period!

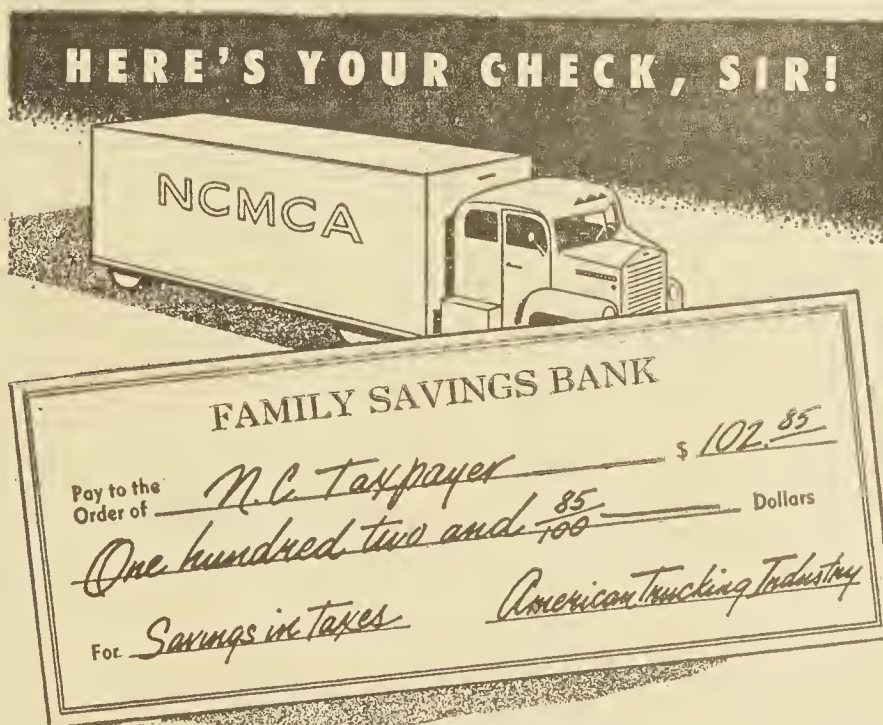
In North Carolina, REA reported, not a single electric cooperative is behind schedule in repaying its loans with interest. The figures for the Tar Heel state revealed that on October 31 a total of \$89,414,659 had been loaned to the co-ops, that they had repaid \$19,860,817 on principal, including \$3,579,887 in advance payments, and that they had also paid the Federal Government

the whopping total of \$6,674,990 in interest.

North Carolina's co-ops, though still very much in debt, were obviously "paying out." Other figures show that this state's cooperatives, through capital credits, are making steady progress in building up member-furnished funds

in proportion to REA borrowed funds, though the co-ops will need to continue borrowing from REA for a long period to come.

All reports considered, rural electrification was obviously in thriving, healthy condition as 1956 gave way to the New Year.



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AYDEN City Elec. Co.	FARMVILLE Garner Furn. Co.	MT. AIRY Hylton Auto Supply Co.	SPRUCE PINE Ray Howel Hdwe. Co.
BELMONT Brown Furn. Co.	FAYETTEVILLE Holmes Elec. Co., Inc.	MT. GILEAD R. A. MacRae	STATESVILLE Blackwelder Furn. Co. Johnston Furn. Co. Watts Plumbing & Heating Co.
BENSON Rose & Co.	FRANKLIN Martin Elec. Co.	MT. OLIVE Garner Bros.	ST. PAULS Frederick R. Keith Powers Furn. Co.
BESSEMER CITY Noblett Furn. Co.	FRANKLINTON Home Appliance Store	NEW BERN Turner-Tolson Furn. Co.	TARBORO W. S. Clark & Sons, Inc.
BETHEL M. O. Blount & Sons	FREMONT Hooks Brothers	OXFORD Penny Furniture Co.	TAYLORSVILLE Adams Radio Co.
BLADENBORO Bladenboro Supply	GASTONIA Johnston's Furn. Co. Maxwell Bros., Inc. The Rawlings Co. Rawlings-Todd Co. Rawlings-Lyda Furn. Co.	PEMBROKE Dorman Hdwe. Co.	THOMASVILLE Sink Elec. Co.
BOONE Boone Tire & Bargain Store	GOLDSBORO Edwards & Jernigan Furn. Co. Live Wire Elec. Co. Sam Jernigan & Sons Furn. Co.	PIKEVILLE Thompson's Elec. & Plumbing	TROY F. R. Thomas Appliance Service
BUNN Strickland's Elec. Co.	GREENVILLE Tiptons Refrigeration	PINK HILL Belle Oil Co.	VALDESE Valdesse Hdwe. Co., Inc.
BURGAW Harrell's Dept. Store, Inc.	GRIFTON J. A. Rogers Furn. Co.	PINNACLE Pinnacle Furn. Co.	VANCEBORO E. L. Dixon
BURNSVILLE Blue Ridge Hdwe. Co.	HAMLET Stinson's	PITTSBORO Pittsboro Furn. & Appli. Co.	VASS Keith Hdwe. Co.
CANDLER Hominy-Valley Furn. Co.	HIGHLANDS Reeves Hdwe. Co.	RAEFORD Baucom Appliance Co.	WADESBORO D. B. Goodman Co. Zachary's
CANTON McCracken Furn. Co. Nantahala Hdwe. Co.	HOT SPRINGS Bob Davis Store	RALEIGH Bernhard Supply Co. Johnson-Lambe Co. Tuttle Appliance Co.	WAKE FOREST Forest Furn. Co.
CAROLEEN Lowe Furn. Store	KING'S MOUNTAIN Margrace Store McGinnis Furn. Co.	RANDLEMAN Millikin Furn. Co.	WALLACE Wallace Hdwe. & Machinery Co.
CARTHAGE Marion Furn. Co.	KINSTON L. Harvey & Son Co., Inc.	RAMSEUR Ramseur Hdwe. & Appliance	WALNUT COVE John G. Fulton
CLARKTON E. J. Cox Farm Equip. Co.	LAURINBURG Market Furn. Co.	RED SPRINGS Bodenheimer Furn. Co.	WARSAW Page Home Appliance
CLAYTON E. W. Ellis & Co.	LENOIR W. E. Shaw Furn. Co.	ROBBINS George L. Frye & Co.	WASHINGTON O'Neil Elec. Co.
CLIFFSIDE Hawkins Hdwe. Co.	LEXINGTON Lexington Furn. Exchange Period Furn. House	ROBERSONVILLE Public Oil Co.	WAYNESVILLE Martin Elec. Co. Rogers Elec. Co.
CLINTON Barwick's	LIBERTY Liberty Machinery Co.	ROCKINGHAM R. W. Goodman Co.	WENDELL Wendell Furn. Co.
COOLEEMEE J. N. Ledford Co.	LINCOLNTON Rhodes Tire & Appliance Co.	ROSEBORO Roseboro Hdwe. Co.	WEST JEFFERSON Burgess Furn. Co.
CONNELLY SPRINGS J. E. Hudson & Co.	LUMBERTON Thompson Elec. Co.	RUTHERFORDTON Morris Furn. Co.	WILLIAMSTON Dixie Motor Co.
CREEDMOOR Allen's Hdwe.	MARSHALL Chandler Hdwe. Co.	SALEMBURG Royal Bros. Hdwe.	WILKESBORO Day Elec. Co. Gray Bros. Furn. Co.
DALLAS Gaston Furn. Co., Inc.	MARS HILL Joe's Elec. Service	SANFORD Brown Auto Supply	WINSTON-SALEM Clinard Elec. Co. Huntley's Mullis Appliance Co.
DENTON Max Hill, Inc.	MARSHVILLE Griffin's TV & Appliance	SELMA Dunn Furn. Co.	YADKINVILLE Yadkin Furniture Co.
DUNN Dunn Furn. Co.	MOCKSVILLE Farmers Hdwe. & Supply Co.	SHELBY Allen Refrig. Co. Maxwell Bros. of Shelby Young Bros., Inc.	YOUNGSVILLE Woodlief Supply Co.
DURHAM Huntley's Furn. Co. Montgomery & Aldridge Appliance Co. Penny Furn. Co., Inc. Rollins-Bloodworth		SILER CITY Brewer Supply Co. Brown's Auto Supply	ZEBULON Whitley Furn. Co., Inc.
ELIZABETHTOWN Bladen Hdwe. Co.			
ELKIN Harris Elec. Co.			

RICH, SOFT PILE of this shaggy rug testifies to the drying results obtainable with modern electric dryer.



You can say goodbye to rainy day blues, now that you own a

Dream of a Dryer

LUCKY, indeed, is the Carolina Homemaker who found an automatic dryer under her Christmas tree last month. Gone for her is the inconvenience of hanging soppy laundry throughout the house on rainy Mondays . . . gone are frost-bitten fingers caused by icy winds chilling the clothes line in the back yard . . . and gone, too, are the Monday backaches resulting from carrying heavy, wet-wash from the laundry room to the yard.

And this lucky homemaker will find that she will have to toss long-held convictions out the window: she'll learn, for example, that it is not true that clothes will be whiter if hung to dry in the sun—that it is the rinsing, not the sun, that makes clothes brighter. And she'll see, too, that clothes dried in her magic dryer smell

just as clean as those dried in the sun.

When she starts to iron, she'll be doubly delighted with machine dried laundry. Her machine will toss her laundry damp-dry, ready for ironing, and one step (that of sprinkling) is eliminated from her laundry process. Because towels and linens have been tossed in the dryer, the homemaker will no longer have to contend with dog ears caused by clothes pins.

The homemaker will find that the dryer, like all her electric appliances, must be cared for properly and must be operated according to the manufacturer's instructions so that she will obtain its maximum efficiency. To begin with, the first step is to get rid of the dust which may have accumulated in the machine while it was being transported from the store to the home. The

*The Carolina
Homemaker*

Edited by Rebekah Rivers

clothes basket should be wiped with a clean cloth wrung out in warm soapy water, followed with a clean cloth wrung out in warm clear water. The screen and lint catcher should also be wiped clean.

The new dryer-owner must learn that—magic though the new appliance is—some items just don't like to be dried in a dryer. Knitted woolens, for example, must be blocked back to shape and dried on stretchers. Girdles and brassieres may be dried but they should be zipped and snapped, so the fasteners won't catch. Any garment that is labeled "wash by hand" shouldn't be dried in the dryer. And never dry clothes in the dryer which you have just dry-cleaned at home.

It is perfectly all right to dry starched clothes in the dryer. However, absorbent pieces such as towels should not be dried in the same load. Some of the starch may rub off on them. To insure a glossy finish for your starched items, let them dry completely and then sprinkle them, rather than taking them damp-dry from the machine. The homemaker should know that a dryer calls for a heavier starch, such as she would use for drying outside on a windy day.

As for drying mixed loads, a safe rule to remember is that clothes that wash well together will dry well together. However, even good wash-mates sometimes need different amounts of heat to dry. In this case, stop the dryer and remove lighter pieces, leaving heavier ones for a longer period of time.

For drying special fabrics, follow these simple instructions:

Corduroy, chenille, terry cloth. These fabrics are even fluffier after a tossing in an automatic dryer. Take them from the dryer when a bit of moisture still remains in them. Then shake briskly.

Silks and rayons. These fabrics should be ironed when quite damp, perhaps even straight from the washer. They may, however, be partially dried with low heat for ten minutes or less, depending on weight of the load. Remove from dryer, smooth wrinkles, and wrap in plastic or rubber sheet until you can iron them. Tricot rayon and silk may be dried thoroughly.

Blankets. Follow these directions carefully: (1) Be sure dryer is free of lint. (2) After washing, lay on flat surface, grasp edge about halfway between bound ends with one hand, and

(Continued on Page 24)

Sleep
Electrically

An electrically-minded lady sets the dials on her luxurious blanket.



January has traditionally been the month for inventory: of one's self, of one's business, of one's future plans. It is also the month of the "white" sales, which are fostered by the practice of the homemaker to take inventory, too, of her linen shelves; if need be, this is the month she restocks her supply of towels, bed linens, and blankets.

Towels and bed linens must be replaced often in an average family. The blanket, of course, is of a more durable nature, and, with the exception of replacing the satin binding now and then, good blankets will even last from one generation to another.

On the other hand, as the family increases, the homemaker must add to the supply of blankets she had as a bride—or perhaps she divided her original stock when her oldest daughter became a bride last summer. And the lady of the house is faced this month with the problem of shopping for the additional blankets.

If the lady is electrically-wise, she will consider very carefully the merits of buying an electric blanket. A badly-heated bedroom means that the bed

must have more than one blanket, and the penny-conscious house wife can immediately see the economic advantages of buying one electric blanket instead of two non-electrics: When the bed is covered with an electric blanket, not additional covering is needed! And the blanket can be operated so cheaply: For less than a penny a night, one can sleep snuggler by sleeping electrically.

Most electric blankets have controls which adjust to changing room temperatures throughout the night, thus enabling one to sleep healthfully and comfortably at the same warmth throughout the night. And the luxury of being able to preheat the bed before retiring is something to dream of on a cold, blustery night.

Making a bed with an electric blanket is as simple as the ordinary bed-making routine. The electric blanket should be placed over the top sheet with the plug at the foot of the bed, facing up. The blanket should be kept smooth and straight and should not be folded over. Only the unwired part of the blanket should be tucked at all, and it is a good idea to only tuck the

(Continued on Page 24)



4614

9299

4614. Our new Printed Pattern makes sewing a cinch with this shirtwaist style! Note the smart euffed sleeves, turn-back collar. Misses' Sizes 12-20; 40. Size 16 takes 5 $\frac{3}{8}$ yards 35-inch fabric.

4698



9299. Graceful yoke style with back fullness, easy - fitting skirt. A Printed Pattern in Misses' Sizes 12-20; 40. Size 16 takes 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ yards 39-inch fabric.

4698. Always neat, always right! Your favorite shirtwaist dress that slims, trims your figure. Misses' Sizes 12-20; 30-42. Size 16 takes 4 $\frac{1}{8}$ yards 39-inch fabric.



9072

9072. Neatest fashion for the half size figure. Note novel side-buttoning, side pocket. In Half Sizes 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ -24 $\frac{1}{2}$. Size 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ takes 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ yards 39-inch fabric.



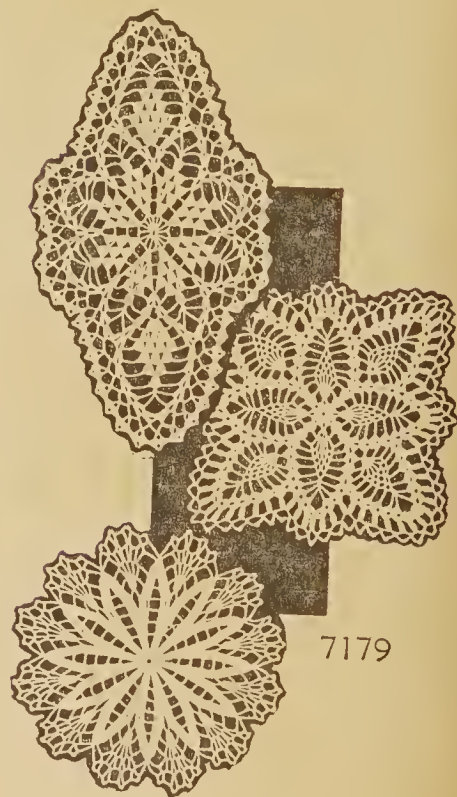
9321

9321. Dress with rounded yoke framing gathered bosom, designed especially for the shorter, fuller figure. In Half Sizes 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ -24 $\frac{1}{2}$. Size 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ takes 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ yards 39-inch fabric.



894

894. A lifelike flower is this lovely serving apron made of colorful remnants to form the pretty petals. Embroidery transfer, directions for 16-inch long flower apron.



7179

7179. Takes less than a day to crochet each of these pretty little doilies. Three different crochet designs (8-inch square doily, 8-inch round, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 14-inch oval) in No. 50 mercerized cotton. For larger doilies, use string.

Send **THIRTY-FIVE CENTS** (in coins, no stamps) for each **DRESS** pattern (above) to: Carolina Farmer, P. O. Box 42, Old Chelsea Station, New York 11, New York. Add 25c for Fall-Winter fashion book. Send **TWENTY-FIVE CENTS** (in coins) for each **NEEDLECRAFT** pattern (at right) to: Carolina Farmer, 243, Needlecraft Service, P. O. Box 162, Old Chelsea Station, New York 11, N. Y. Add five cents for first-class mailing. Send additional 25c for Needlework Catalogue.

HOW TO BUY A COAT

MANY wise shoppers wait until the January sales to buy winter coats—and if they are truly wise shoppers, they will buy carefully. For the woman with a moderate income the coat is the article of clothing she must wear the longest and the most often, and the article she must spend the most for.

One of the secrets of dressing well is to key all other clothing to your coat. When shopping in the January sales, keep these tips in mind:

Choose a style sufficiently basic so that it looks well with your in-between dresses as well as with your Sunday-best. Few of us can afford different coats for different occasions, so we must choose one that will go everywhere well.

Go quickly past those extremely-cut coats. They go out of style after one season. Stick to something that will weather many seasons.

In a well-planned wardrobe, the colors of your dresses, suits, and separates (sweaters and skirts) are all coordinated with the color of your coat. You will find more room for color combinations if you choose a coat in a basic color: beige, gray, blue, brown or black.

Coordination must be kept in mind when it comes to choosing a silhouette, too. A coat with straight, slim lines goes beautifully with a sheath, but how will it look over a billowing skirt? A fitted coat and a princess dress are "naturals" together, but what happens to the lines of a fitted coat when you wear a boxy suit under it?

If you want both slim and bouffant skirts in your wardrobe, choose a coat with enough fulness to take care of both. Check to see that the coat has an adequate overlap so that it does not gap when you walk or sit down.

Think about the wear of the coat you select. Will it keep its good looks through several seasons? The quality of the fabric has a lot to do with the answer.

A simple way to judge the quality of a pile fabric coat is by the density and fall of the pile. It should be compact, rich and resilient. Low quality pile fabrics have poor cover and shaggy edges, and they feel lifeless. Let texture and appearance help you appraise the value of the fabric.

The lining should be of closely woven material and have a pleat in the center back extending the full length of the coat to allow for give.

After the coat is purchased, following five simple rules will help preserve its present beauty:

1. Don't let it become too soiled before having it cleaned. A scarf protects the collar against soil.
2. Hang the coat up promptly when you take it off. Use a padded or broad coat hanger, not a thin wire one that may ruin the shape of the shoulders. Don't jam the coat among other clothes. Give it space on either side so that it can "breathe."
3. Don't place heavy or bulky objects in the pockets.
4. If the coat gets wet, don't dry it near a hot radiator.
5. Protect your coat as much as possible from friction. Don't carry a handbag or books under your arm so that they rub against the side of the coat.

Over The Lines

with Becky



"Resolved: to play more in '57"

A brand-new January has its compensations, even though most of us regretfully tear another page from the book of time . . . for a new year brings a new approach to life, to work, and to play.

The homemaker usually approaches the new year with a resolve to find easier ways to do her work so that there may be more play in her life. And we on the homemaking staff begin our new year with the resolve to help her find that leisure. In this issue, for example, we remind her of the time and labor savings earned with the installation of an electric dryer, we instruct her in the proper and easy care of her small appliances, and give her a shopping guide for coat and blanket shopping.

For the smaller tasks (which can be powerfully time-consuming when added together) I have a list of 52 ways an humble cake of soap or a bowl of suds can help. Space forbids my giving you the entire list in this column, but I'll give you a small sample, and if you're interested, write a note to "Over the Lines", Box 1699, Raleigh, and I'll send you the entire list. Here's your sampling:

To keep the cap of a glue or nail polish container from sticking, coat the screw threads inside the cap with soap. To pick up bits and pieces of broken glass safely, rub a damp bar of soap over the area where glass has splintered. Then shave off the surface of the soap to which glass has stuck. Wrap soap peelings in a newspaper and throw them away.

• To prevent button holes from raveling in sheer material, rub the area with moist soap, dry before cutting.

—FREE PATTERN

For the men in your family, crochet a neat, long-sleeved pullover in lightweight wool. Featherlight yarn tailors to perfection and lends itself to active sportswear as well as under a suit coat. Pattern leaflets are free on request to Rebekah Rivers, the Carolina Homemaker, Box 1699, Raleigh, N. C. Send one SELF-ADDRESSED envelope for each pattern requested.



Rural Exchange

RATES—10C PER WORD, CASH WITH ORDER. NO STAMPS. MINIMUM AD—\$2.00

• OF INTEREST TO WOMEN

\$350 FOR YOUR child's photo, all ages, if used for advertising. May also qualify for **FREE CAMERA**. Send photo for approval. Returned two weeks. **ADVERTISERS**. 6000-CNY Sunset, Los Angeles 28, Calif.

EARN \$40 WEEKLY sewing Babywear! No house selling! Rush stamped addressed envelope. Babywear, Warsaw, Indiana.
SEW BABY SHOES at home! \$40 week possible. We contact stores for you. Tiny Tot, Gallipolis 72, Ohio.

EMBROIDER STAMPED LINENS. Buy direct from manufacturer and save. Send for **FREE** catalog. MERRIBEE, 16 West 19th Street, Dept. 253, New York 11, N. Y.

CHURCH GROUPS, ORGANIZATIONS, HOME AGENTS. Raise funds easily. Complete credit to organizations. Over 50 useful, unusual moneymakers. Low prices—large profits. Send today for approvals with complete information. Bob Products, Dept. NC-57, Onenonta, New York.

SEW BABY SHOES at home! \$40 week possible. We contact stores for you. Tiny Tot, Gallipolis 72, Ohio.

NYLON STOCKINGS—Seconds. Ideal for work at home. Beautiful shades. \$3.50 per dozen. Order COD, pay postman on delivery. All Sheer Hosiery Mills, 1249 Griswold, Detroit, Michigan.

SEW APRONS AT HOME for stores. Easy, profitable home self-employment. Write ADCO, Bastrop, Louisiana.

WONDERFUL GIFT: New, Miracle **FOAM-O-CEL** sponge "foams" away dirt, grease and grime from rugs, upholstery in minutes—at cost of pennies. Dip in water, wipe clean, that's all. Long-lasting. Contains **MOTH-X-PEL** for added protection. No muss or odor. **ONLY \$1**. **ORDER SEVERAL**. **FOAM-O-CEL 106** Commercial Bldg., Raleigh, N. C.

• FOR SALE

MINK RAISING INFORMATION free. Complete. Lake Superior Mink Farm, Superior EE, Wisconsin.

BUY SURPLUS FARM MACHINERY! Implements, tractors, trucks, jeeps. Direct from U. S. Government Depots. List & Procedure \$1.00. **BRODY**, Box 80CAB, Sunnyside 4, N. Y.

MR. FARMER, give your livestock best mineral available for past 35 years. Use National Hog, Mule and Cow Medicines. Order now from dealer or write us for free folder. National Hog Medicine Company, Box 1634, Raleigh, N. C. Telephone, Temple 2-8729.

CEMENTS. Anything broken at your house? Leech Cement or Glue will restore former beauty and usefulness. A glue for every purpose. Ask dealer or order from State Distributor, National Hog Medicine Company, Box 1634, Raleigh, N. C. Telephone Temple 2-8729.

• PATENTS, INVENTIONS

INVENTION RECORD and Patent Information Booklet free on request. Franklin W. Durgin, Registered Patent Agent, c/o Evergreen Farm, 12500 Meadowood Drive, Silver Spring, Maryland.

• MISCELLANEOUS

DO YOU HAVE an old auto, motorcycle, truck, steam tractor, or old N. C. license tags stored away? Highest prices paid for early models. Write price wanted and complete information to J. J. Malpass, Burgaw, N. C.

POEMS WANTED FOR NEW SONGS. Send poems for free examination. Immediate consideration. **SONGCRAFTERS**, Lyric Dept., 2724 Arcade Station, Nashville, Tennessee.

WANT TO BUY a good motor out of a wrecked car model 46 to 48 Ford, 6 or 8 cylinder. List price. Contact Vander Butler, Eagle Springs, Route 1.

LICENSE PLATES WANTED from 1910 to 1915. Also auto magazines before 1920. Please write. Anthony Shupienus, Newport, New Jersey.

• POULTRY

WHY PAY MORE. AAA Heavy Breed Cockerels \$6.95 per 100 (Positively No Leghorns) COD. AAA Heavy Breed all one breed our choice guaranteed Straight Run \$9.95 per 100. AAA New Hampshire Reds, Rhode Island Reds, Barred Rocks, White Rocks, Wyandottes, Rock Crosses your choice of heavy breed straight run \$11.95 per 100. AAA Heavy Breed Pullets \$17.95 per 100. S. C. Leghorn (Large English Type) Creighton Strain Pullets \$25.95—100. White Leghorns straight run \$11.95—100. 100% Bloodtested. Live Delivery Guaranteed. Prompt COD shipment **RUBY BABY CHICKS**. Dept. NCRA-4, Norfolk, Virginia. (Phone Madison 2-9040).

SURE OUR CHICKS ARE SELLING! Why? Because we can furnish you healthier, better bred chicks for less money. It takes a lifetime of breeding to produce 75% to 95% layers. This was proved by our own Imperial Mating White Leghorn random flock that averaged 276 eggs per hen this past year. Trail's End balanced breeders are great layers of our time. Your faith in them will be rewarded with many dollars extra profit. Imperial Leghorns, New Super Hampshire Reds, White Rocks, Barred Rocks. Pullorum clean. Please write for free literature. Live and let live prices. Trail's End Poultry Farm, Gordonsville, Virginia.

The Carolina Farmer
REACHES 124,200
North Carolina Farm
FAMILIES THIS MONTH

Dream Dryer

(Continued from Page 21)

one bound end with the other. Gradually work from one side of blanket to the other, stretching every few inches. Repeat these motions, holding the other bound end and the center section.

(3) Now put the blanket in the dryer. The thermostat should be set high; timer at 15 minutes. When the machine stops, check the blanket for moisture. It should be removed from the dryer when it still holds enough moisture to permit easy reblocking. If you need more heat, check it every five minutes. Air blanket thoroughly before returning it to the bed.

(4) After each blanket is washed, the dryer should be carefully cleaned.

Pillows. It is not recommended that pillows be washed in machines, but they may be fluffed often with a 5 to 10 minute tumble in the dryer on high heat...

For cleaning the dryer, the homemaker should follow carefully the instruction book which came with her machine. For more detailed information on machine drying or laundering, write Rebekah Rivers, the Carolina Homemaker, Box 1699, Raleigh, N. C.

Sleep Electrically

(Continued from Page 21)

blanket at the foot of the bed. Care should be taken that no wired part of the blanket is jammed between the mattress and footboard or wall.

The control box should be placed near the bed, preferably on a night table. Most controls are operated by room temperature, so the control box should not be placed under the pillow, near an open window, or a radiator.

An electric blanket can be washed as can any other fine blanket. They should be washed gently for no longer than three minutes in lukewarm water, a mild soap and lots of suds. Rinse thoroughly, squeeze and stretch gently. For drying, they should be hung lengthwise over a line to dry in the shade. **Electric blankets should not be put through a wringer or tumbler-type dryer, unless the directions so indicate.**

Several precautions should be taken to insure a longer life for the luxurious electric blanket. First of all, it should be turned off each morning. Secondly, when the blanket is dirty, it should be washed according to the above instructions. **Do not send an electric blanket to the cleaners: The cleaning chemicals can injure the insulation on the wires.**

THE CAROLINA FARMER

PLEASURE TRIP

The beautiful but not too intelligent girl was on her first cruise. As she was standing on the deck a sailor passed by.

"Oh, please," said the girl, "where is the captain of this ship?"

"He's forward, Miss," answered the sailor.

"Oh, that's all right," she giggled, "after all, this is a pleasure trip."

* * *

CLOWN

When his engine conked out the pilot of a light plane glided to a landing on a state highway. The only car in sight pulled off the road when the driver saw the plane coming in. After rolling to a stop, the pilot jumped out and walked back to the car to thank the motorist for his cooperation, and to ask for a lift to the closest airport. As the pilot neared the car the woman sitting beside the driver struck her head out of the window:

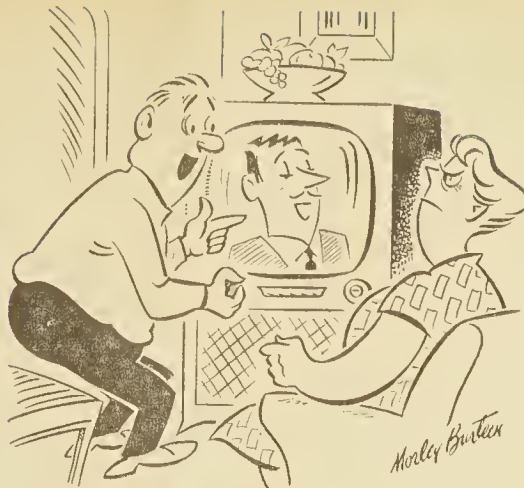
"We'll get out of the way if you'll just show us where to go, mister. This clown here is the only driver in the country who could start out on a highway and wind up in the midst of an airport!"

* * *

ANNIVERSARY

On the golden wedding anniversary the old lady was asked: "In all these years have you ever thought of divorce?"

She replied: "No, only murder."



"Best thing about TV is that I can turn it off—Can I, dear?"

Hale!

TEXAS

And did you hear about the Texan who bought his dog a boy?

* * *

DIRECTION

At a recent convention in town a sign had been erected near the speaker's platform for the benefit of press photographers. It read: "Do not photograph the speakers while they are addressing the audience. Shoot them as they approach the platform."

WISE CRACKS

... Only part of us can learn by other people's experience—the rest of us have to be the other people.

... Judging from traffic statistics, front-seat drivers aren't so clever, either.

... A modern wife is one who can thaw out a pre-cooked, frozen dinner during a long television commercial.

... It's a shame that when success turns a person's head it does not also wring his neck just a little.

* * *

NO DANGER

The couple had been away from home several hours when the wife suddenly remarked, "Horrors, I forgot to turn off the electric iron before we left home."

"Don't worry, dear," said her husband cheerfully. "It won't burn long. I forgot to turn off the faucet in the bathtub."

* * *

JUST A STRANGER

Two nine year olds were watching a free show and one of them kept sniffing. A woman nearby finally advised him, in some irritation, to blow his nose. The kid paid no attention, just kept sniffing.

"Ya better do what she says," his pal advised. "After all, she ain't your mother."



"Talk about tough breaks! This makes eight weeks in a row I haven't been able to get those leaves raked."



"Soft life you farmers have. Short hours, free groceries, nothing to pay out..."

Atomic Power

Rural electric cooperatives commend and support the four big power companies that recently joined hands to develop atomic electricity in this region. These companies—Duke, CP&L, VEPCO and South Carolina Gas & Electric—have formed a new corporation called Carolina-Virginia Nuclear Power Associates.

Through this organization the companies will combine their efforts to develop and build a generating plant that uses atomic energy for fuel, in lieu of coal, gas or oil. The companies' initial goal is to construct a small, experimental plant, one that will pioneer new designs and thus pave the way for cheaper production costs in the future.

The dream of a cheaper, more efficient method of generating power through atomic energy is already coming true. Last fall England began the operation of an atomic plant that produces 50,000 kilowatts of power. In England the cost of coal, long used for fuel in most of the generating plants of both that country and ours, is very high. Atomic energy, which at present requires more expensive housing but represents a fantastically cheap fuel, is an immediate answer to England's power needs. Other plants are already being built by the British.

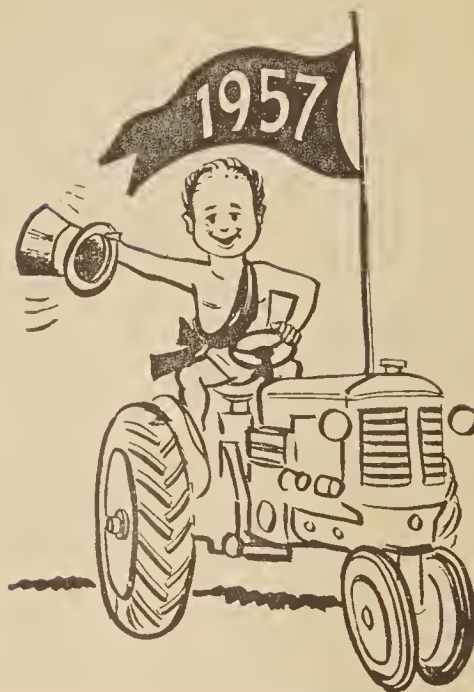
The great promise that lies in atomically-generated power is simply this: At present the cost of coal, gas or oil is responsible for 15 to 20 cents out of every dollar for which the average residential user is billed. But compared with these fuels the cost of getting heat through atomic radiation is virtually zero.

Through many years of effort, the electric industry has steadily decreased the cost of building and operating plants which use the ordinary fuels. The use of atomic fuels, however, involves not only many new safety hazards, but new, comparatively clumsy methods of operation and control.

These are disadvantages that will be overcome in time.

We can be assured that cheaper power through atomic energy is on the way. How soon we shall get it depends largely upon the speed with which the electric industry and the Atomic Energy Commission move in this field.

The formation of Carolinas-Virginia Nuclear Power Associates is a noteworthy beginning in the Southeast.



TARHEEL VIEWS

By
William T. Crisp

Last month, in the regular Opinion feature of this magazine, Governor Luther Hodges directed a simple but important message to rural North Carolinians. Taking note of the continuing downward trend in our farm economy, the Governor appealed to local communities to encourage the development of rural industries.



This appeal was barely in print when Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Bensen announced a further cut of 20 per cent in tobacco quotas for 1957. No other announcement could have more forcefully underscored Governor Hodges' message.

It is predicted that the tobacco cut will force at least 26,000 families out of farming in Eastern North Carolina alone. Moreover, the loss in regional income caused by this cut will run into hundreds of millions of dollars.

This is the second straight year that tobacco quotas have been slashed. Add to this development the many others that in recent years have depressed farm income, while increasing farm

costs, and the basic wisdom of the Governor's appeal is obvious.

Both electricity and the cooperatives that distribute it are vital if rural industry is to grow up in the wake of fallow tobacco fields. Industry must have electric power to operate. Co-ops have made that power available in rural areas.

Already our cooperatives are servicing over 200 rural industries. These industries are using over 30 million kilowatt-hours of power yearly; they are employing some 5,000 people; and their payrolls run to \$10,000,000 annually.

The benefits flowing to communities that have such industrial enterprises are immense. Competition for them is therefore keen. The community that gets one must plan, publicize its resources, support a good school system and, most important of all, display an enthusiastic spirit for accepting new methods and new people in solving old problems.

Does your community measure up to these requirements? If so, local initiative in responding to Governor Hodges' appeal may well lead to a brighter economic future than will otherwise be the case.



BLESSED

With Opportunity

NORTH CAROLINA has everything that many industries need for successful operation.

"Vast potentials remain virtually untapped," says Governor Hodges, "I believe our future is practically unlimited if we accept the opportunities before us."

New and expanding industry is the answer to North Carolina's greatest economic problem — which is lower per capita income than 42 other states.

Strides forward have already been made in establishing profitable new industries, large and small, in the State. Many communities are already feeling direct benefits of their payrolls. But the greatest task lies ahead. Success depends upon the understanding and efforts of all North Carolinians.

The Dept. of Conservation & Development in Raleigh will send its booklet on Community Organization for Industrial Development free upon request.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT



This advertisement is published by *The Carolina Farmer* as a public service in the interest of the State's industrial development program.

giant

Master Oven

23" WIDE

16" high

18" deep

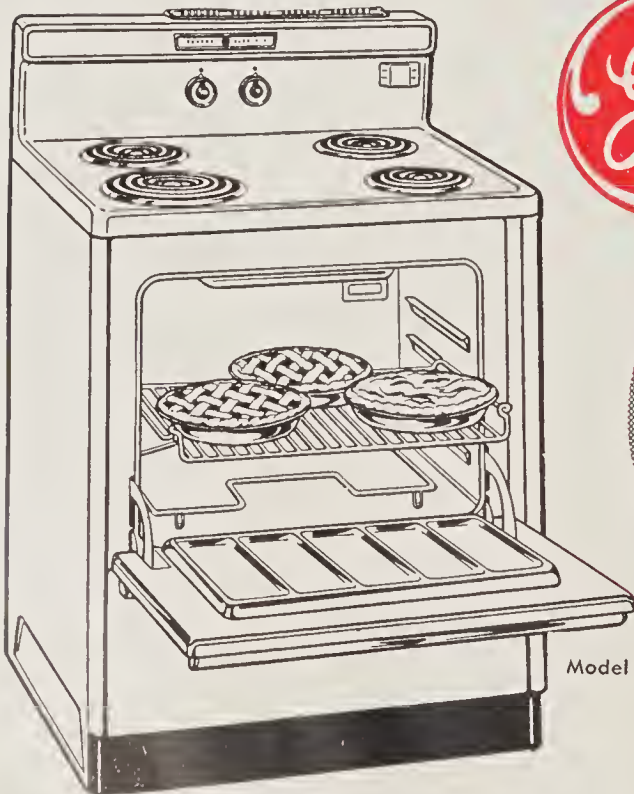
cooks an oven meal
for 30...all
at one time



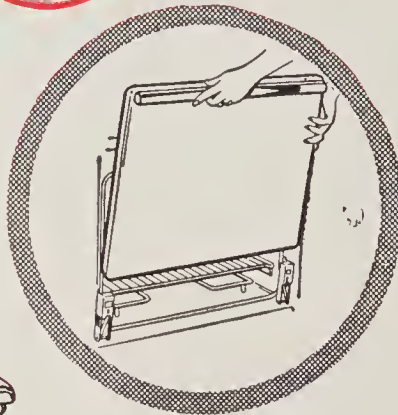
**New 1957
big capacity
SPACEMAKER**

pushbutton electric range

30"



Model J-300



REMOVABLE OVEN DOOR

Oven cleaning is so easy! Just lift the door off and reach in without bending or stretching over a door!

Door goes back on easily, locks in place.

Choice of 5 colors or white

- "No-Drip" Cooktop Edge
- Extra Hi-Speed 8" and 6" Calrod Surface Units
- Pushbutton Controls
- Focused Heat Broiler
- Enclosed Oven Units

**A \$229.95 Value for
only**

\$189⁹⁵

With Trade

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